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Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Vanessa **Gomes** (Portugal)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 56 (see A/61/425, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 29th and 34th meetings, on 14 November and 8 December 2006. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/61/SR.29 and 34).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/61/L.35 and A/C.2/61/L.62

2. At the 29th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation" (A/C.2/61/L.35), which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in three parts, under the symbol A/60/425 and Add.1 and 2.

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"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003 and 60/208 of 22 December 2005,

"*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Taking note* of the Declaration of the Heads of State or Government of Landlocked Developing Countries,

"*Recalling* the Asuncion Platform for the Doha Development Round,

"*Recognizing* that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

"*Expressing support* to developing countries emerging from conflict, in particular landlocked developing countries, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and to assisting them in achieving their development priorities in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

"3. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe their legitimate interests;

"4. *Urges* donor countries and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions, in particular the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate technical and financial assistance in the form of grants or concessionary loans for the implementation of the five priorities outlined in the Almaty Programme of Action, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications, to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes;

"5. *Reaffirms* the importance of trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action and stresses the need for the early resumption of the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization trade negotiations, adhering fully to agreed mandates of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the July Framework and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration;

"6. *Emphasizes* that assistance for the improvement of transit transport facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategies of the landlocked and transit developing countries and that donor countries should consequently take into account the requirements for the long-term restructuring of the economies of the landlocked developing countries;

"7. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, including the regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization and the International Maritime Organization, to integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, and encourages them to continue their support to the landlocked and transit developing countries, inter alia, through well-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport;

"8. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001 and in the Almaty Programme of Action and the Almaty Declaration, to continue its cooperation and coordination with organizations within the United Nations system, particularly those engaged in operational activities on the ground in landlocked and transit developing countries, to ensure effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in line with Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003; and also requests the Office to accelerate its work to support the process towards developing necessary indicators to measure the progress in the implementation of the goals and commitments of the Almaty Programme of Action, in close cooperation with relevant organizations;

"9. *Decides* to hold a mid-term review meeting of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries in 2008, in accordance with paragraph 49 of the Almaty Programme of Action; the review should be preceded by, where necessary, national, subregional, regional and substantive preparations in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner; also in accordance with paragraph 49, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should coordinate the preparatory process and United Nations system organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, should provide necessary support to the review process;

"10. *Appeals* to donor countries and the international financial and development institutions as well as private entities to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference;

"11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled 'Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation';

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on progress made in the preparation for the comprehensive review."

3. At its 34th meeting, on 8 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation" (A/C.2/61/L.62) submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Prayono Atiyanto (Indonesia), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.35.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.62 (see para. 7).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.62, draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.35 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

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III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003 and 60/208 of 22 December 2005,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Taking note of the Declaration of the Heads of State or Government of Landlocked Developing Countries,[3]

Recalling the Asunción Platform for the Doha Development Round,[4]

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

Expressing support to those landlocked developing countries that are emerging from conflict, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and to assisting them in achieving their development priorities in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[5]

Recalling the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[6] an initiative for accelerating regional economic cooperation and development, as many landlocked and transit developing countries are located in Africa,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] A/C.2/61/3, annex.

[4] A/60/308, annex.

[5] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

[6] A/57/304, annex.

Welcoming the convening of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, on 10 and 11 November 2006, which adopted the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries;[7]

2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

3. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe their legitimate interests;

4. *Encourages* donor countries and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions, in particular the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate technical and financial assistance in the form of grants or concessionary loans for the implementation of the five priorities outlined in the Almaty Programme of Action,[5] in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications, to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, and calls for the early resumption and successful development-oriented outcome of the Doha Round of trade negotiations, adhering fully to the agreed mandate in the Doha Ministerial Declaration,[8] the Framework adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 1 August 2004[9] and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration;[10]

6. *Emphasizes* that assistance for the improvement of transit transport facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategies of the landlocked and transit developing countries and that donor countries should consequently take into account the requirements for the long-term restructuring of the economies of the landlocked developing countries;

7. *Recalls* that landlocked and transit developing countries have the primary responsibility for implementing the Almaty Programme of Action, as envisaged in its paragraphs 38 and 38 bis;

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[7] A/61/302.

[8] A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[9] World Trade Organization document WT/L/579; available at http://docsonline.wto.org.

[10] *Developments and Issues in the Doha Work Programme of Particular Interest to Arab Countries in the Context of Millennium Development Goals* (United Nations publication, UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2005/9), annex IV.

8. *Emphasizes* that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation with the involvement of donors should be further promoted, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations;

9. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, including the regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization and the International Maritime Organization, to integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, and encourages them to continue their support to the landlocked and transit developing countries, inter alia, through well-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport;

10. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001 and in the Almaty Programme of Action and the Almaty Declaration,[11] to continue its cooperation and coordination with organizations within the United Nations system, particularly those engaged in operational activities on the ground in landlocked and transit developing countries, to ensure effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in line with Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, and also requests the Office to intensify the efforts to establish effective indicators to measure the progress in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in close cooperation with relevant organizations;

11. Decides to hold a midterm review meeting of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries in 2008, in accordance with paragraph 49 of the Almaty Programme of Action; the review should be preceded, where necessary, by national, subregional, regional and substantive preparations in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner and should be organized within existing resources; intergovernmental mechanisms at the global and regional levels, including those of United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant substantive material and statistical data, should be effectively utilized in the review process; also in accordance with paragraph 49, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should coordinate the preparatory process and United Nations system organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, should provide necessary support to the review process;

12. *Encourages* donor countries and the international financial and development institutions as well as private entities to make voluntary contributions

[11] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.

to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation";

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on progress made in the preparation for the midterm review meeting.